

NEWS ALERT

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Contact:

Michael Bacich - Assistant General Manager Customer Relations/Marketing
(951) 826-5422

Riverside Officials Address Utility's Water Quality Amidst Faulty Research by Bloggers & Websites - Again

Riverside, Calif. A four-year-old, erroneous, and much refuted report on water quality in Riverside, which has spurred further, incorrect blogs and articles, has surfaced again, prompting City of Riverside and Utilities (RPU) officials to assure customers that Riverside's water is clean.

"The bottom line is, and has been, that Riverside's water is safe to drink," said RPU's General Manager Girish Balachandran.

The problematic faulty reporting stems from an erroneous study first published in 2009 that used untreated groundwater samples to calculate constituencies in water, not highly treated tap water samples – which incorrectly placed a number of public water utilities at the top of "worst water" lists.

In response, RPU assured its customers with special mailings, press releases, water reports, and more that the information was incorrect and that the City's water was among the safest in the nation.

However, the topic is an easy grab for a website or social media blogger to pick up on and post, repost or tweet without any fact checking, giving fuel to an already dead fire.

"It's unfortunate that these old stories and these false results can come back up, and cause unwarranted concern with our customers," Balachandran said. "But if our customers have questions or concerns they only need to check with us and our communication channels for the truth."

Riverside Public Utilities has a variety of water and water quality information online at www.BlueRiverside.com. Customers with additional questions may contact the City's Call Center at 311 (or 826-5311).

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

www.GreenRiverside.com

www.BlueRiverside.com